

In the Claims

Please three-time-amend claim 1 and twice-amend claim 21 as follows:

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1. A protective element in a pair of cycling shorts, said protective element comprising a double-stretch support of said cycling shorts with which at least one double-stretch padding is connected, said double-stretch padding being arranged at a ~~crotch~~ crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts, and said double-stretch padding being applied at said ~~crotch~~ crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts in an absence of stitched seams at said double-stretch padding.

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-- 21. A protective element in a pair of cycling shorts, said protective element comprising a double-stretch support of said cycling shorts with which at least one double-stretch padding is connected, said double-stretch padding being arranged at a ~~crotch~~ crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts, said double-stretch padding comprising:
a first central element which is arranged approximately at a tangent to an imaginary curved line of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts;
a second element formed at a front of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts; and
a pair of third elements formed at a rear of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts, with first flat regions interposed, at transverse ends of said first central element.

CLEAN COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Three-times-Amended) A protective element in a pair of cycling shorts, said protective element comprising a double-stretch support of said cycling shorts with which at least one double-stretch padding is connected, said double-stretch padding being arranged at a crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts, and said double-stretch padding being applied at said crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts in an absence of stitched seams at said double-stretch padding.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (Twice-amended) A protective element in a pair of cycling shorts, said protective element comprising a double-stretch support of said cycling shorts with which at least one double-stretch padding is connected, said double-stretch padding being arranged at a crotch region of said pair of cycling shorts, said double-stretch padding comprising:
a first central element which is arranged approximately at a tangent to an imaginary curved line of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts;
a second element formed at a front of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts; and
a pair of third elements formed at a rear of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts, with first flat regions interposed, at transverse ends of said first central element.